

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE
REGARDING ARIZONA SHOOTING

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I concur in the expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona on January 8, 2011.

Like all Americans, on Saturday morning I was saddened and sick to my stomach when I watched the horrible attack against my colleague Congresswoman GIFFORDS, known as GABBY to me, her staff, her constituents and to all Americans.

We now know, on January 7, Congresswoman GIFFORDS reached out and sought "new ways to reduce the highly partisan divisive tone that all too often dominates our public discourse." Today I am going to do exactly that: not in words of criticism, but thoughts of observation and desire to help.

For law makers whether federal, state or local . . . This tragic incident must make us re-evaluate our spending priorities and accept the fact that our continued failure to provide adequate funding for mental illnesses is a mistake.

For the agencies, whether they be educational, military, or private vendors/businesses . . . we must be diligent in connecting the dots, doing the extra work, taking the time to think out of the box, stop working in silos and to insist on utilizing technology for good like the real time utilization of information.

For the parents, whether your child, who will always be your child regardless of their age, should not be allowed under our own roofs to turn their rooms, garages or backyards to a private area one fails to tread.

For protectors and preservers of the law, it is not okay to tell me there is nothing wrong with someone sending a hate e-mail saying, "I'm concerned it's time for a good old fashioned lynching/tar and feather."

For those who debate and protest, it is not okay to spit, say racial slurs, to say reload or to arm in reference to a debate; neither is it okay to say a group other than yourself is a Neanderthal and they want people to die quickly.

For our court, even in 1919 and 1931 in the cases of *Schenk v. United States* and *Near v. Minnesota*, had the wisdom to know "the most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theatre and causing a panic."

Tell me how anyone, any court, or any legislative body could justify a man carrying a AR 15 rifle and a pistol, feet not miles from where our president was speaking that . . . That was not right in August 2009, last Saturday, today, or tomorrow.

And now for those of us, we turn to this resolution on the floor today, page 4, sections (7–8) the resolution references:

Right of the people peaceably to assemble, All can participate without being silenced with intimidation,

And threats of violence.

I have watched right here in this room and on these grounds, leaders not fulfilling this words of "peaceable assembly free of intimidation."

We too must not just react, but now is the time to act. Not just in legislation but in what Congresswoman GIFFORDS asked us to do: "reduce the divisive tone." Maybe if we start as leaders, others will follow.

I express condolences to the families of those who lost their lives, I pray for strength for those who survived and have long roads to recovery, and I commit to do work on this issue and how I work with you my colleagues. As Representative GIFFORDS' husband holds her hand as she heals, I am ready for her to return to hold her hand as we as a country heal as well.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE
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SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 32, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011. My thoughts and prayers go out to those who were lost: Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John Roll, Phyllis Schneek, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabriel Zimmerman, and to their friends and families and all those in the community whose lives they touched. Words can not begin to express my sorrow about their passing. I am also praying for a full and quick recovery for those 14 individuals who were injured, including my good friend and colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

On Saturday morning, GABBY was out in her community, as she often was, hosting a meeting with constituents and providing an opportunity for them to ask questions and express concerns in an open and free environment. It is this proximity to the people we represent that we most cherish as Members of the House of Representatives. My number one priority, which I'm sure is shared by all of my colleagues, is to be accessible and available to the families and communities in my district. While we may never understand the motive or reasoning behind the violent event on that day, it felt to many like an attack on all of us, our democracy, and on the freedoms that we work to protect each day as elected officials. As so many Americans have done throughout our history, bystanders became heroes and their actions prevented an even worse catastrophe. I am thankful for their quick actions and grateful to our entire nation for standing together as one community in support of the people of Tucson and speaking with one voice that this senseless act of violence has no place in a civilized democracy.

GABBY's passion for public service is unmatched, and this is clearly evident in her work ethic on the House Armed Services Committee, where we both serve. I greatly admire her ability to be a tough advocate for her district, while always looking for ways to reach across regional, partisan, or ideological boundaries to find common ground to move forward on an important issue. She is always warm, personable and professional, and she stands strongly and passionately for what she be-

lieves in and what she believes is best for her constituents in Arizona. Last week, when we spoke on the House floor, she discussed her desire for the House to quickly consider legislation to create more jobs in our districts. Even after an exhausting election cycle, she never broke her focus and was ready to move forward on day one to get our economy back on track.

My life changed forever at the age of 16 after an accident that left me paralyzed. I wondered what life could possibly have in store for me next. Yet as I lay in my hospital bed, I was overwhelmed with the outpouring of support from my friends, family and neighbors. Along with my faith, which pulled me through one of the darkest times in my life, it was also the generosity and concern from my community that ultimately made me want to give back through a career in public service. I want to share this strength with those who are injured now and fighting to recover, and let them know that many wonderful possibilities lie ahead.

Next week, we will continue our work, the work of the people, but I am grateful for this opportunity to pause and reflect on this national tragedy. Madam Speaker, thank you for bringing forward this resolution and for allowing all Members of the House to express their condolences to those who were lost and support to our friend, Representative GIFFORDS, her staff, and all of those in Tucson and across the nation as we begin to heal together from this tragic event.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I missed a vote yesterday, and I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present: rollcall No. 12, "yes."

HONORING GALVESTON
BUSINESSES

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, on February 3, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce will hold its 165th annual meeting. Established by the Ninth Congress of the Republic of Texas in 1845, making it the oldest chamber of commerce in Texas, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce works to promote and advocate for the business community of Galveston.

At the February 3rd meeting, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce will honor several dedicated volunteers for their years of service to the Galveston community. Among their other accomplishments, all of this year's honorees' are past Chairs of the Galveston Chamber of Commerce. These honorees all remain involved with the Galveston Chamber of Commerce by, among other activities, serving on a new committee of Past Chairs.

Galveston Chamber of Commerce President Gina Spagnola, said the Past Chairs Committee was created because "The Past Chairs